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VOLUME LXV NUMBER 19512

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Money Magazine



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US criticizes Jerusalem road construction

HILLEL KUTTLER, DAVID MAKOVSKY and LIAT COLLINS

The State Department yesterday criticized a ministerial panel's decision to proceed with construction of two roads around Jerusalem, saying it interferes with the peace process.

"The road was approved by Prime Minister [Yitzhak] Rabin's government to relieve congestion. Now, the US would have preferred that the action just taken by the Israeli government not have been taken at this time," said Glyn Davies, a State Department spokesman, reading from a prepared statement.

"We've said to both parties, since the Hebron agreement, that they should act in ways which build confidence and enhance prospects for future progress. We would prefer to see steps taken now which continue to build positive momentum."

Davies would not say whether the US position was conveyed to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during his US visit last week. But an Israeli embassy official said Netanyahu did tell Clinton of the decision on the two roads so as not to surprise the Americans. "He didn't ask for approval," he said, referring to Netanyahu. "He just explained the importance."

Israeli officials said last night they were relieved by the State Department comments, Israel Radio reported.

The officials said the reaction by the US administration is not unusual compared to previous statements and noted that Netanyahu did not seek support for the planned construction and road building. They pointed out that there are different opinions between Jerusalem and Washington on this matter.

Meanwhile, at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, head of the General Security Services Ami Ayalon voiced caution regarding new construction in Jerusalem. While noting that unlike the situation that sparked the September violence, the Palestinian economic outlook has improved and there is no deadlock in the peace process, "construction in Jerusalem can arouse fierce and unpredictable protest action that

[Yasser] Arafat cannot control," Story, Page 2

The decision to build the roads was taken yesterday at the ministerial panel on Jerusalem convened by Netanyahu.

One road in question is Highway 45, which already partially exists. The panel voted, according to the official communiqué, to "advance the construction of Highway 45 and Highway 4 (which connects Jerusalem with Highway 45)." The road goes from the Modi'in area eastward along Beit Horon and towards Jerusalem's northern suburb, Givat Ze'ev. It will now be extended to Neveh Ya'acov before dipping southeast towards Ma'aleh Adumim.

Part of the US concern is that some of the territory the road will traverse is in Area B, land under partial Palestinian control.

The panel also voted yesterday "to accelerate the processes regarding both the outline and the detailed plans for constructing the Eastern Ring Road in Jerusalem, including the Mount Scopus road."

The ministerial panel also pledged to "advance the planning for Highway 80. First priority will be given to the stretch from Tel Arad to Mishor Adumim."

With the additional roads, the hope is that Ma'aleh Adumim, Pisgat Ze'ev and Neveh Ya'acov will not feel cut off from Jerusalem, due to the potential contiguity of Ramallah with the villages of Hizma, Anata, and Zaitun.

At yesterday's panel meeting, the premier said he was deferring the construction of the Har Homa neighborhood in southern Jerusalem at the behest of Mayor Ehud Olmert, who is abroad. However, when interviewed by telephone on Channel 2 last night, Olmert said he did not ask that the issue be delayed.

Sources insist Netanyahu is seeking to delay the Har Homa issue and wants to link the establishment of the neighborhood to the scheduled March 7 pullback in the West Bank. Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau said Monday night that he had a promise from Netanyahu to begin

Continued on Page 5

Police question Netanyahu

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was questioned for some four hours last night about the circumstances surrounding Roni Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general.

Netanyahu answered dozens of questions from Cmdr. Sando Mazar, his deputy, Lt.-Cmdr. Ya'acov Grossman, and Lt.-Cmdr. Rami Zoller.

"The investigation was performed in accordance with the law," Mazar said after the session. "The prime minister did not request any privileges. Taking his statement took about four hours. As expected, the prime minister cooperated and told all he knew, and answered all our questions."

"If a need arises to present additional questions, it will be done in coordination with the prime minister's schedule," said Mazar, head of the national police investigative division.

However, the investigators apparently did not schedule another session with Netanyahu. They began analyzing his statement last night, comparing it to the other evidence they have accumulated.

Over the next few days, Shas leader Aryeh Deri and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman reportedly will be questioned again. Several people from the Prime Minister's Office will also reportedly be questioned for the first time.

Sources said that last night's session, which took place at the Prime Minister's Office, was expected to close the remaining gaps in investigators' understanding of Bar-On's appointment. Shas allegedly supported the appointment in expectation that Bar-On would arrange a plea bargain in Deri's fraud trial. Shas reportedly



Channel 1 reporter Ayala Hasson, who broke the original story, and her cameraman wait outside the Prime Minister's Office last night for the end of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's interrogation regarding the 'Bar-On for Hebron' allegations. (Brian Hender)

conditioned its support for the Hebron agreement on the Bar-On appointment.

According to Channel 1, Netanyahu was pressured, and perhaps even blackmailed, into

appointing Bar-On, despite his advisers' opposition to the appointment.

Though investigators say they

Continued on Page 5

Lebanese police nab Okamoto, 6 others

The only surviving terrorist, Page 4

Japan said yesterday that it would dispatch officials to Lebanon to help identify the suspects and would seek their extradition if they are identified as Red Army members.

The suspects - five Japanese

plus two Lebanese women - were rounded up in raids since Friday by agents of Lebanon's State Security Department, a Lebanese government official said.

He said the arrests took place in several apartments in Beirut. But Information Minister Bassem El-Sabeh said he understood the arrests occurred in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, long a hideout for such groups.

"There are some Japanese citizens who are supposed to be mem-

bers of the Japanese Red Army and who are actually with the Lebanese security forces who are interrogating [the detainees] concerning their implication in some events," Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told reporters.

"The interrogation began a little time ago and we are waiting to see what are exactly their responsibilities concerning participation in

Continued on Page 2



Red Army member Koza Okamoto flashes the victory sign in this 1985 file photo. (AP)

First internet auction: Memorabilia from the Dreyfus affair

By TOM GROSS

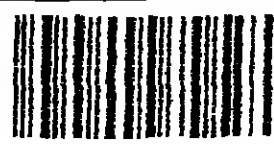
The Dreyfus affair, which began 103 years ago, is set to take a step into the next century today, when memorabilia connected to it will be sold in the world's first auction over the Internet.

Collectors will be able to buy letters, documents, newspapers, pictures and cigarette cards on their computer screens. Cameras will relay the "cyber auction" from the Paris showroom of auctioneer Drouot live over the Internet, allowing buyers around the world to make interactive bids while the sale is in progress.

Jean-Claude Binoche of Drouot said this is the first auction to offer a complete Internet service to buyers.

"For the first time, people will be able to participate in an auction

Continued on Page 2



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NEWS

in brief

Radical PLO faction wants to join peace talks

A radical, Syrian-based PLO faction, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, asked to be included in the negotiating team with Israel, deputy secretary-general Oais Abdel Hakim said yesterday. The proposal, which was sent to Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat, makes no reference to the Marxist group's decades-old slogan advocating armed struggle against Israel. The DFPLP's history of violent attacks against Israel includes a suicide mission in 1974 that killed 24 people, most of them schoolchildren, in the northern town of Maalot. Its last attack was a February 1995 ambush that killed one Israeli security guard in the Gaza Strip and wounded another. AP

Half of Jewish girls avoid army service

Some 50 percent of Jewish girls and 20% of boys of draft age do not serve in the IDF. About 15% of those drafted drop out shortly after recruitment, according to figures presented to MKs yesterday by Bat Ami, a society that arranges non-military national service for religious girls.

Bat-Ami director Akiva Sela told MKs there ought to be civilian national service for the entire population of draft age, including haredim and minorities.

The Tsomet faction yesterday submitted a bill calling for compulsory national service of some sort for all. Faction chairman Eliezer Zandberg said it is "based on the principle of equal rights for equal obligations." He linked the principle of national service to, among other things, the rights of Israeli emigrants to vote for the Knesset. Liat Collins

Feuding Abu Ghosh clans reach agreement

Representatives of two Abu Ghosh clans which clashed last Friday reached an agreement yesterday, according to which there will be no violence for at least the next six months.

Following the incident, in which one man was shot to death and three others wounded, efforts were made to settle the dispute. Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit was involved in these efforts, saying he would delay his trip to the US until he was promised calm was restored in the village. Village notables and members of the families involved signed the agreement. Itim

Har-Shefi's trial to begin next Thursday

The trial of Margalit Har-Shefi, a friend of Yigal Amir's accused of failing to prevent the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, will begin on February 27 in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. Har-Shefi also is accused of providing information to Amir about where to find weapons with which to carry out the shooting. Itim

Privatization policy guidelines set

The Knesset State Control Committee yesterday established guidelines for the government's privatization policy. Committee Chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said he feared the privatization could result in state assets being "handed over to relatives and those with connections." The guidelines include refraining from granting foreign entrepreneurs preferential status and requiring them to get approval from the Knesset Finance Committee, obliging the government to accept the highest price for bids in privatization; ensuring workers' rights; and avoiding concentrating control in the economy in too few hands. Liat Collins

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spade, the king of hearts, the seven of diamonds and the queen of clubs. In last night's Loto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 5, 9, 20, 23 and 25, and the additional number was 32.

Ayalon hedges on Har Homa

By LIAT COLLINS

General Security Service head Ami Ayalon did not present a clear opinion on the Palestinian response should the Har Homa construction go ahead, according to MKs who heard his briefing at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

MKs said Ayalon's assessment was worded cautiously. According to the committee members, he only noted that in September when the Western Wall Tunnel rioting broke out, the Palestinians had a clear interest in the unrest against the background of economic problems in the autonomous areas and the stalemate in the negotiations.

Ayalon did not elaborate, but MKs understood this to mean that the circumstances

are not the same today. He did say, however, that it is difficult to anticipate the Palestinian response on anything related to Jerusalem, because of its sensitivity, and that the situation could get out of control because of pressure on Arafat from the street.

Without a clear statement from the GSS chief, the committee members simply interpreted his assessment to be generally in accordance with their political stand. Those on the right took it to mean that the Palestinian response would not be serious if the building plans were implemented and that Israel should not act out of fear of Palestinian dictates. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, on the other hand, said the assessment confirmed his opinion that building on Har Homa would be a mistake and would spark rioting possibly worse than that which

followed the tunnel exit opening. "And I don't need the head of the GSS to tell me that," Sarid said.

On the question of whether Arafat would declare an independent state in 1997, Ayalon gave a firmer answer saying he did not predict it, as long as the peace process and redeployments made satisfactory progress from Arafat's point of view.

He reportedly did not, however, that the Palestinians are continuing to arm themselves in every way possible. He said the GSS is finding it difficult to locate the source of the arms smuggling into the autonomous areas.

Ayalon said Arafat recently freed several terrorists involved in attacks and seemed to be freeing those whom Israel has not asked to be handed over for trial. The GSS chief is quoted as saying he sees the release of ter-

rorists by the PA as "very serious." He said the deportation of Hamas activists Moussa Abu Marzook from the US is not essential, but that if Israel did not insist on it, it would create the impression that Israel is too scared of Hamas.

Ayalon tried to avoid reporters by entering and leaving the Knesset by side entrances, and committee members were apparently asked not to leak details of the meeting to the press.

Meanwhile, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that the building of the neighborhood could lead to serious disturbances among the Palestinians.

Itim reported that Kahalani told the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem that even though there would be violence, the police could handle it.

Peace Now vows to block Har Homa

By HERB KEINON and LIAT COLLINS

Peace Now pledged yesterday to fight the government in the courts and in the streets if it goes ahead with plans to build a new Jerusalem neighborhood on Har Homa.

"I want to inform the government that if it approves building this new neighborhood, we will go back and fight it in the courts," said Peace Now activist Tzili Reshef.

In addition, said Reshef, speaking from a rooftop in the east Jerusalem village of Umm Tuba that overlooks the prospective site, "we will be here in the thousands, because we believe the neighborhood is against the peace that the public and we have been fighting for many years."

Reshef termed construction of the neighborhood a "provocation" that will "move us a step backward in the peace process." He said construction of the neighborhood will harm co-existence in the capital, and building it will actually weaken, not strengthen, the city.

"There is no reason to go into a Palestinian area and create the next provocation that will provide another reason for a bloody conflict between Palestinians and Jews," Reshef said.

Reshef attacked Labor Party leaders who favor building the neighborhood, saying "I think it is another example of Labor's leadership nodding their head, and going along with a plan that is a mistake, only because what is



Children from Umm Tuba participate in a Peace Now demonstration yesterday, at a site overlooking Har Homa. (Brim Hendler)

being discussed is Jerusalem." The seven Yisrael Be'aliya MKs also toured the Har Homa site yesterday.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said during the visit: "Regarding Jerusalem, any time is the right time and no time is better than the present. If on a matter on which there is a national consensus we start seeking the right time, we are not in a good situation. If we don't continue the building in Jerusalem it will be the end of Zionism. Governments come and go but Jerusalem remains forever. Only a govern-

ment that builds in Jerusalem has the right to exist."

It must be made clear to Arafat that any threat he makes will only boomarang, Sharansky said. "If the building of the neighborhood leads to the end of the peace process, it will also be the end of Arafat," he said.

"For the last 3,000 years the timing has always been problematic," said Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein. "Therefore we must continue to build. There are unjustified pressures on the prime minister. The coalition and opposition must give him their full support."

IDF, SLA on alert for Hizbullah retaliation

By DAVID RUDGE

IDF and South Lebanon Army troops are on full alert in case of retaliation for the death of a Lebanese woman and the wounding of two other civilians during heavy exchanges in south Lebanon yesterday. That includes the possibility of Katyusha attacks in the north.

The Lebanese government lodged a complaint with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over the civilian casualties and extensive damage to property, which it said were caused by IDF shelling.

Israel also complained to the monitoring group over the fact that the Hizbullah firing at IDF and SLA positions that sparked the exchanges originated from

inside villages north of the zone.

The five-nation monitoring committee, which met yesterday to hear previous complaints by Israel and Lebanon over breaches of the understandings that ended fighting last April, is to reconvene again today to discuss the new protests.

The understandings ban attacks on civilian targets on both sides of the border. Additional clauses, however, also forbid firing or the launching of attacks from populated areas or public facilities.

Furthermore, the added clauses in the understandings give the IDF and the SLA the right of self-defense.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who visited the site yesterday, stressed that Israel did not want an escalation of the situation in south Lebanon.

Nevertheless, Mordechai made it clear IDF troops had the right to defend themselves and would do so. "All those who fire at us or try to hit our soldiers or those of the SLA need to know that they could (also) be hit," Mordechai said.

The defense minister spoke to reporters during a visit to Kiryat Shmona, where he and President Ezer Weizman were guests of honor at the placing of a new Torah scroll in a local synagogue named in memory of Maj. Uri Azulai, who was killed in an Hizbullah roadside bomb attack in the security zone last October.

The exchanges erupted around 9 a.m., when Hizbullah gunmen opened fire from long distance at several IDF and SLA positions in the Ali Tahr region.

The IDF spokesman said the firing originated from inside Arab Salim, Haboush and Roumane villages, north of the security zone.

There were no IDF or SLA casualties and gunners from both forces returned fire.

Mordechai said mortars and other weapons had been fired at the positions and that the IDF and SLA had responded "in accordance with instructions." He said the events were being investigated.

Reports from Lebanon, including Hizbullah's own radio station "Nur," said a woman was killed in Haboush village and another woman wounded, as a result of the IDF and SLA return fire.

According to the radio reports, a man in Arab Salim village was also wounded in the shelling,

while several homes were badly damaged, especially in Kafr Roumane.

The reports said schools, shops, businesses and other places in Nabatiya and surrounding villages north of the zone were closed and people took shelter because of the shelling.

In the past, prior to Operation Grapes of Wrath and the understandings that were reached, Hizbullah responded to Lebanese civilian casualties with Katyusha rockets on the Galilee.

There were no reports of any further incidents after the exchanges, although the atmosphere in south Lebanon remained tense after a statement by Hizbullah that it would respond at the time and place of its choosing.

DREYFUS

Continued from Page 1

sale in Paris without quitting their screen," he said.

Dreyfus, who in 1894 was the only Jew on the French army's general staff, was convicted on spying charges and sent to the Devil's Island penal colony off the coast of South America.

Watching Dreyfus's public degradation in January 1895 was

the Paris correspondent of the Vienna *Neue Freie Presse*, Theodor Herzl. Hearing chants of "Death to the Jews" as Dreyfus was paraded around the Ecole Militaire inspired Herzl to write *Der Judenstaat*, the cornerstone of modern Zionism.

Dreyfus eventually was cleared in 1906, after a campaign to prove his innocence, by, among others, Emile Zola, who wrote an open letter, *J'accuse*, in defense of Dreyfus.

But the case has divided French society sharply, as seen in some of the hundreds of items now up for sale. They've been gathered over 20 years by collector Nicolas Philippe.

Binoche said today's Dreyfus sale will be a prototype of the way most auctions will be conducted in the next century. Potential bidders can view the sale catalog in English or French on the Internet web page <http://www.narf.fr>.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Rene Baer and Dan Ansel will speak on "World Financial Markets and the Israeli Capital Market."

OKAMOTO

Continued from Page 1

ing in English.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters in Japan he had been informed by Lebanese officials that the aging terrorists and three supporters, all of them Japanese, were arrested in the Bekaa, where they had been holed up for years. The Red Army, founded in 1971, is allied to hardline anti-Israeli Palestinian factions. There was no immediate indication whether Japan was requesting the extradition of the Red Army members.

The sources said Japanese Ambassador Yasuji Ishikagi told Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials on Monday that a Japanese security mission had arrived in Beirut.

"The ambassador told the officials that the mission is here to help the Lebanese government in the investigations and it has information it wants to provide the authorities with," the source said.

Japanese media reports have named four of the detained terrorists as Kazuo Tohira, 44, Hisashi Matsuda, 48, Mariko Yamamoto, 56, and Masao Adachi, 57.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

DORA NATHAN

The funeral took place yesterday, February 18. Shiva at the Nafte residence, Moshav Avichail.

Nafte family

With deep sorrow, we announce the sudden passing on Saturday, February 15, 1997 of our beloved

LEON ILUTOVICH

former Vice-Chairman of the Zionist Organization of America

A memorial meeting was held in New York, which was attended by his numerous friends and admirers. Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, former President of the Zionist Organization of America, delivered a eulogy.


The funeral will take place tomorrow, Thursday, February 20, 1997, at 2 p.m. at Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

His wife, Renia, and family

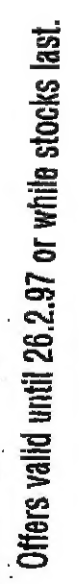
Shiva at 36 Rehov Arlosoroff, Tel Aviv, Apt. 14, Tel. 03-523-6896.

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Scandinavian Festival

[illegible]

NEWS

in brief

Yad Vashem asks to examine Generali records

Yad Vashem has asked the Generali insurance company for permission to examine its records in an effort to learn the names of Holocaust victims. A large percentage of Generali's customers at the time perished in the Holocaust. Part of Yad Vashem's mission is to compile a comprehensive list of Holocaust victims. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev wrote in a letter to the head of Generali.

"So far we have collected several million names, but the road to a full list is still long," he wrote. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Woman on flight from India dies

A woman whose medical condition caused an El Al airliner en route to Israel from India to be diverted to Nairobi died in a hospital on Monday, El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said yesterday.

The woman, 24, who was to have been a new immigrant, was six months' pregnant and had a history of heart problems. Her husband stayed at the home of an El Al staff person in Nairobi while his wife was in the hospital. Klieman said that El Al and the Jewish Agency were arranging to have the body flown here for burial. *Haim Shapiro*

Ramle youth suspect in other sex attacks

The 15-year-old youth suspected of raping a seven-year-old girl near a Ramle school is also suspected of raping and sodomizing an 11-year-old boy.

During the youth's interrogation, police discovered that Rishon LeZion police opened a file against him as a suspect in the sodomizing of a nine-year-old Lod boy over a two-year period. The suspect allegedly confessed to the attacks.

An indictment against the youth - who was sent for psychiatric observation - is expected today, after his lawyer's appeal of the extension of his remand was rejected. *Itim*

Milo calls on gov't to curb pollution

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo blamed the city's air pollution on the high number of vehicles in the area, during a meeting yesterday between city representatives and environmental groups. He called on the Environment and Transportation Ministries to address the problem.

The municipality's environment authority distributed its report that air pollution has dropped in the city over the past three years and presented medical research denying a connection between pollution and children's illness. *Itim*

US denies FBI head's visit linked to Abu Marzook deal

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

The United States embassy denied yesterday that FBI Director Louis Freeh's current visit here was linked to any secret deal to avoid extraditing Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook from the US to Israel.

Hamas has threatened violence against the US and Israel if Abu Marzook is sent to Israel, which has asked for his extradition on

grounds he masterminded last year's suicide bombings.

Israeli security sources and news reports have said Israeli, Jordanian and US officials are secretly examining a deal to send Abu Marzook to Jordan instead in return for his promise to shun violence.

Freeh met Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday and a ministry official said they discussed Abu Marzook only in passing.

He also met with Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz,

with the two agreeing to widen cooperation between the Israel Police and the FBI, especially in fighting organized crime.

The US embassy in Tel Aviv said in a statement that "contrary to press reports, Director Freeh is not here to discuss the Abu Marzook extradition case" but came to Israel as part of a three-country official visit including Egypt and Jordan.

In Tel Aviv and Cairo, the FBI director is opening offices as part

of President Clinton's commitment to expand U.S. anti-terrorism and international crime-fighting capabilities. He will also travel to Amman," the statement said.

"While in the region, the FBI director is using the opportunity to meet with Palestinian officials, including Chairman (Yasser) Arafat, to discuss US law enforcement concerns," it said.

Abu Marzook has said he was involved only in political matters for which he could not be extradited.

But last month, after 18 months in a New York jail, he dropped his court challenge to Israel's demand that US officials hand him over.

Arafat asked the US not to send him to Israel.

Jordanian Justice Minister Abdul Karim Dughni said on Friday that Jordan's King Hussein was working for the release on humanitarian grounds of Abu Marzook and of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who is held by Israel.

BACKGROUND

A bloody Red Army

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's Red Army was once one of the world's most feared terrorist groups for its ability to stage deadly and spectacular attacks from plane hijackings to hostage-taking.

Led by a 51-year-old woman, Fusako Shigenobu, who is still at large, the group was born out of the 1960s anti-Vietnam War movement and preached the total destruction of capitalism.

Its members fought at home against the presence of US forces in Japan and then in the early 1970s took their struggle overseas. They backed their rhetoric with a mix of ruthless violence and careful planning which often kept them one step ahead of international law enforcement agencies.

After the winding down of the US military's involvement in Vietnam, the Red Army turned its attention to the Middle East,

becoming implacable foes of Israel and supporters of Palestinian independence.

Intelligence sources say the group, which once numbered in the hundreds, has now dwindled to only about 40 active members who are scattered in hideouts around the world.

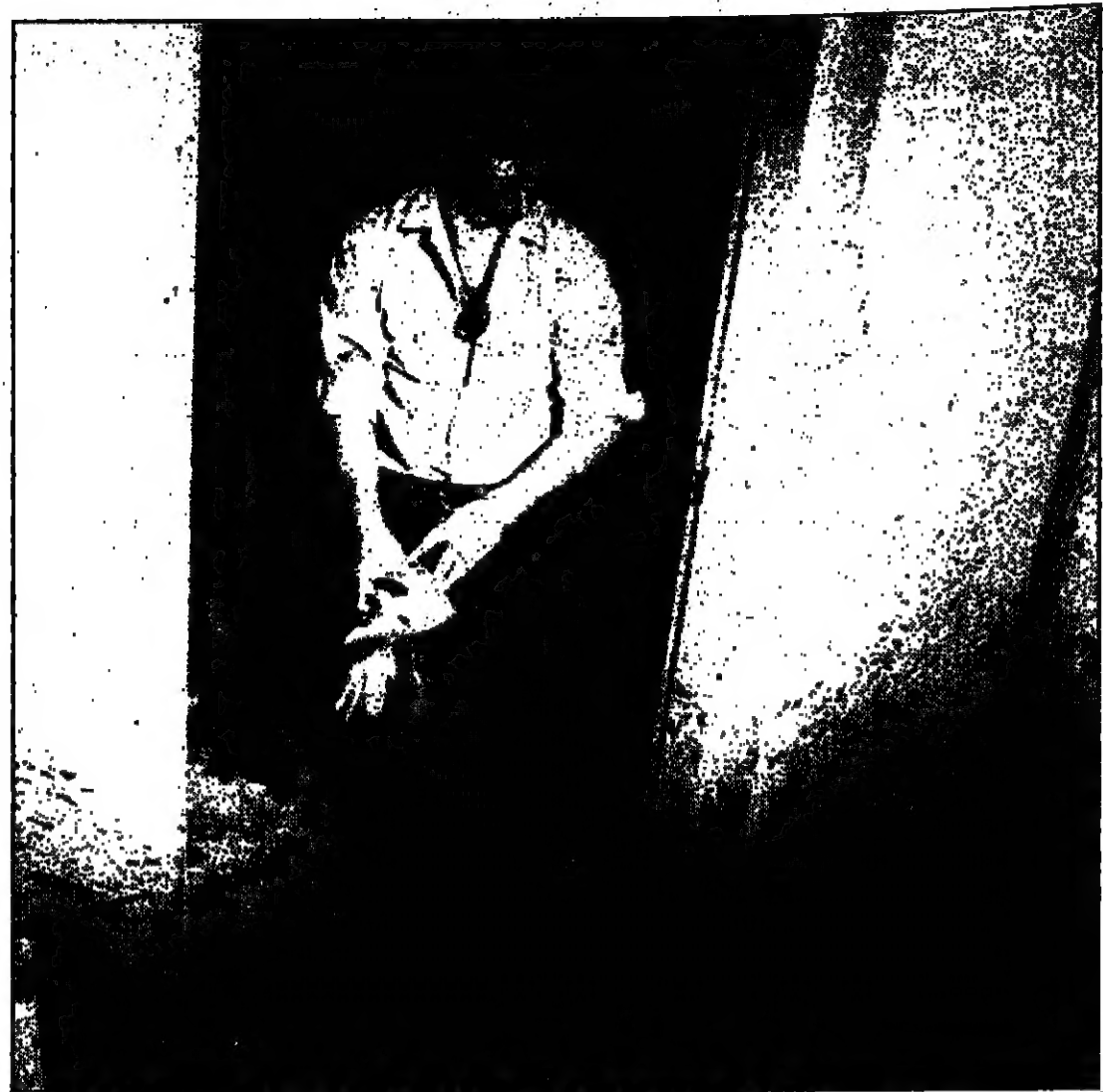
Some were arrested while many melted back into Japanese society as their revolutionary fervor cooled.

The following are some of the group's most infamous attacks:

- May 1972 - Three members attack Lod airport.
- July 1973 - A Red Army member leads four PFLP terrorists in hijacking a Japan Airlines plane over the Netherlands, forcing it to land in Dubai and then Libya, where all passengers and crew are released and plane is blown up.
- Jan 1974 - Members blow up storage tanks at oil refinery in Singapore.
- Sept 1974 - Red Army seizes French Embassy in The Hague, taking the French ambassador hostage. They win the release of one imprisoned comrade and flee to Syria.

- Aug 1975 - Red Army members seize US consul, Swedish charge d'affaires and 51 other hostages in building housing US, Swedish, Japanese and Canadian embassies in Kuala Lumpur. They win release of five imprisoned comrades and fly to Libya with them.
- Sept 1977 - Five Red Army members hijack Japan Airlines airliner over India and force it to land in Dhaka. Hijackers fly to Algeria after Japanese government meets their demand for release of six prisoners and \$6 million.

- May 1985 - Okamoto, the survivor of the Ben-Gurion Airport attack in 1972, freed after 14 years imprisonment in an exchange of prisoners between Israel and the Palestinians.
- May, 1986 - Red Army fires mortar rounds at the embassies of Japan, Canada and the US in Jakarta.
- June, 1987 - Red Army fires mortar rounds at embassies of Britain and the US in Rome.
- April 1988 - Red Army bombs US military recreational club in Naples, Italy, killing five.



Blood and debris cover a corner of Ben-Gurion Airport's arrivals hall in 1972 after the attack by Japanese Red Army terrorists. (Israel Sea)

The only surviving terrorist

By URIEL HEILMAN

Kozo Okamoto, 49, who was arrested in southern Lebanon yesterday along with five other members of Japan's notorious Red Army group, is the only gunman to survive the airport massacre at Lod in 1972, which killed 24 people and injured over 100.

On the evening of May 30, 1972, three Japanese terrorists disembarked from Air France flight 707 which had come from Paris via Rome. They produced three Kalashnikov submachine guns from their luggage and opened fire, and they threw hand grenades in the arrivals terminal at Ben-Gurion Airport in Lod. Most of the casualties were Puerto Rican pilgrims who had been aboard the flight, though several Israelis died in the rampage. Two of the three gunmen, Jiro Sugisaki and Ken Torio, were killed. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for

coordinating the attack.

Okamoto, who was captured and taken into custody by Israeli authorities, told interrogators he had trained with the PFLP in camps in southern Lebanon for three weeks prior to the attack. The Japanese Red Army, of which Okamoto was a member, aimed to foment world revolution. Okamoto told authorities, "I didn't kill because I hate the Israelis - I killed because I was ordered to."

The Zifin military tribunal, which rejected Okamoto's request for a quick execution, sentenced the Japanese terrorist to a life term on July 17, 1972. Okamoto's father, Yasuo Okamoto, also asked that his son be sentenced to death.

On May 20, 1985, Okamoto was one of 1,150 terrorists exchanged for Israeli soldiers with the Palestinians. Two days later, Tokyo put him on the international wanted list and a report a day later said he was headed for Lebanon's Bekaa valley, where he was captured yesterday.

Ethiopian group rejects reported proposal on blood donations

By JUDY SEGEL

The Ethiopian Immigrant Union yesterday rejected a proposal they said was made by

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza that every person be allowed to donate blood, but the decision whether to use it be left to a blood bank physician.

Immigrant union leaders met with Matza on Monday, a year after the Ethiopian blood donation "scandal" broke out, revealing that Magen David Adom

accepted blood donations from Ethiopian immigrants but discarded them due to the higher risk of AIDS among them.

Since then, the Navon Commission has recommended limitations: blood donations by people who spent time in a whole list of HIV-infested countries, or those who had sexual contact with them. None of the recommendations has yet been implemented, and the handful of units donated by Ethiopian immigrants are frozen.

Health Ministry spokesman Effie Lahav would only say that "the ministry, together with Ethiopian community representatives, is formulating an answer to the problem of blood donations that will protect public health and the rights and honor of the community."

Matza and ministry officials presented the union with a comprehensive NIS 6 million information campaign to prevent AIDS within the Ethiopian community, but it has not yet been approved by the Treasury.

According to the union, Matza said his proposal was one that "you must adopt. If the blood bank doctor thinks the blood can be used, it will be, and if not, it will be destroyed."

They asked whether all donations by Ethiopian immigrants would be marked with a special sticker, as in the past. Matza responded that the policy of the would-be donor filling out a detailed questionnaire giving his personal history could not be avoided.

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China urges calm in Korean defector standoff

By JANE MACARTNEY

BEIJING (Reuters) - China appealed for calm while South Korea called for a military alert amid fears a diplomatic deadlock over a senior Pyongyang defector marooned in Beijing could push the North to take extreme action.

However, signs emerged that North Korea and its leader Kim Jong-il might be ready to give up the fight to recover scholarly ideologue Hwang Jang-yop - possibly as a result of mediation by Beijing to end the Cold War crisis in its backyard.

South Korean officials said talks continued with Beijing over the fate of Hwang, ranked 24th in Pyongyang's hierarchy, who spent his seventh day behind the white walls of Seoul's consulate office in Beijing.

Hwang, 74, could be the first in a stream of high-level defectors to betray their Stalinist homeland, beset by two years of floods, food shortages and talk of power struggles, South Korean media reported.

South Korean Prime Minister Lee Soo-sung called for "extraordinary alertness" and military readiness against North Korea, saying Hwang's defection had sent shock

waves through the divided Korean peninsula.

A Seoul newspaper said it had documents revealing plans by other North Korean officials to flee.

"The defection of secretary Hwang Jang-yop, who belongs to the core force of the North Korean leadership, vividly displays the shaking of the ideological foundation that has supported the North Korean system amid economic disasters," Lee said.

Seoul would spare no diplomatic efforts to allow Hwang to be granted political asylum, he said.

Lee told parliament that Pyongyang had increasingly deployed offensive forces near the border with the South, despite an economic crisis and chronic food shortages.

A military spokesman said Lee was referring to the North's defense build-up in recent years and no additional troops had been deployed at the tense border in the past week.

But China took no chances and sent three armored personnel carriers to reinforce approaches to Seoul's mission, apparently not reassured by signs Pyongyang could be coming to terms with the loss of one of its greatest ideological thinkers.

A sign of the jangling nerves in South Korea's diplomatic community in Beijing came when grocery workers collecting money for delivery of beer and rice cakes were mistaken for Pyongyang agents trying to trick their way into the home of Seoul's consul-general.

A report by South Korea's Yonhap news agency that three men - apparently North Koreans - had harassed the diplomat's wife was a false alarm, a Seoul embassy spokesman said.

The woman had called the embassy in fright when the men knocked on her door, but when South Korean officials contacted the store manager it turned out that he had given his employees the wrong address.

The softer tone set when Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry said it would dismiss Hwang if he defected was echoed by supreme leader Kim, who said those who lacked the grit to defend Pyongyang's fiery brand of communism should go their own way.

"As the revolutionary song goes: Cowards, Leave If You Want To! We will defend the red flag to the bitter end," a political essay broadcast by state radio quoted Kim as saying.

WORLD

in brief

Irish police detain 4 under anti-terrorism laws

DUBLIN (AP) - Irish police are questioning four men arrested in overnight raids that uncovered a quantity of home made detonating cord reportedly similar to that used in Irish Republican Army bombings. A police spokesman said the men are being detained under anti-terrorism legislation, which allows police to hold suspects for up to 48 hours without charge.

Police and anti-terrorist forces arrested the men late Monday during raids in the counties of Westmeath, Waterford, Tipperary and Kilkenny, a police statement said.

Press Association, the British news agency, said the detonating cord was made from surgical material packed with Semtex explosive and petrol. It quoted unnamed Dublin security sources as saying such cords were used in recent IRA bombings in Northern Ireland, London and Germany.

Maxwell's daughter: My father was murdered

LONDON (Reuters) - Gislaine Maxwell, the youngest child of former media tycoon Robert Maxwell, broke a five-year silence about her father's death yesterday, saying she believed he was murdered.

She told the celebrity magazine *Hello* there was no evidence of suicide or a heart attack. "I think he was murdered," she said. "One thing I am sure about is that he did not commit suicide. That was just not consistent with his character."

Mystery has surrounded Robert Maxwell's death since he went over the side of his yacht on November 5, 1991, and was found floating dead in the sea off the Canary Islands.

Shortly after he died his media empire unravelled and £400 million (NIS 2 billion) in company pension assets were found to be missing.

London's ethnic population to grow 40%

LONDON (Reuters) - London's ethnic minority population will rise 40 percent in the 20 years to 2011, when blacks and Asians will constitute more than half the population in two of the capital's 33 boroughs, research showed yesterday.

The London Research Centre said that by 2011, 28% of London's population of 7.03 million would be from the ethnic minorities, compared with 20% in 1991, when 6.90 million people lived there.

The Indian population would rise to 452,000 from 362,000, the black Caribbean population to 379,000 from 304,000 and the black African population to 321,000 from 170,000.

In Brent, north London, ethnic minorities would make up 52% of the population in 2011 compared with 45% in 1991.

In Newham, an east London borough hit by a number of racist incidents, the black and Asian population would rise to 61% in 2011 from 43% in 1991. The London Research Centre is subscribed to by all 33 boroughs and claims to be London's leading provider of research on urban affairs.

Protest over disability payments to Dutch Nazi soldiers

By JEMFER CHAO

AMSTERDAM (AP) - A Dutch group appealed to Germany yesterday to end disability payments to Dutch soldiers who served in Hitler's Nazi forces, including the Waffen SS.

Meanwhile, pensions that were paid for decades to two suspected Nazi war criminals who live in the US have been stopped, according to the labor office in Bremen.

The Dutch group, the Resistance Foundation, wrote German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to ask for the abolition of a 1950 German law that permits monthly payments to Dutchmen for injuries suffered while serving with the Nazis.

The protest stems from the recent controversy in Germany over alleged World War II criminals still receiving taxpayer-funded benefits as disabled soldiers.

About 1.1 million German war veterans or their families receive disability payments. These include about 50,000 suspected members of units like the Waffen SS.

According to the German Labor Ministry, as many as 392 Dutch people get disability checks from the German government.

The two US residents whose pensions were stopped were Alexander Lehmann, 77, and Kazys Ciurinskas, 78.

German authorities said Lehmann of Cleveland, Ohio, has been paid a pension since 1951 and has been living outside Germany since 1958. His current pension was 213 marks (NIS 420) per month.

Ciurinskas, who lives in Schererville, Indiana, has been receiving a pension since 1966. It was currently 879 marks per month.

Ciurinskas is believed to have served in a Lithuanian SS battalion suspected of murdering thousands of Jews.

In 1981, the US Justice Department began proceedings against Lehmann to force him out of the country.



Kisses in the Kremlin

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat gives Russian President Boris Yeltsin a kiss on the forehead prior to their talks in the Kremlin yesterday as part of Arafat's two-day visit to Moscow. (Reuters)

Albright floats NATO-Russia brigade

By BARRY SCHWED

BRUSSELS (AP) - Trying to ease concerns in Moscow, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright proposed yesterday that NATO form a joint military brigade with Russia for peacekeeping operations in Europe.

Based on successful cooperation in implementing the Dayton peace accords in Bosnia, Albright said Russian and NATO troops could also train together under the concept she presented to allied foreign ministers in Brussels.

She will take the idea to

Moscow tomorrow for meetings with President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and other Kremlin officials who take a skeptical and also anxious view of NATO's planned expansion to Russia's western border by 1999.

Albright, who is also working with the allies on a charter linking Russia to NATO, said in a speech, "We will be steadfast in offering Russia our respect, our friendship and an appropriate partnership. We cannot realize our shared vision of a united, secure and democratic Europe without Russia."

With the 16-nation NATO primed to offer membership at a summit in July to former Soviet allies - most likely Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary - the United States and other allies are searching for ways to ally Russia's anxieties.

As a result, NATO is increasingly finding ways to link Russia more tightly to the Western alliance, while denying it membership.

Albright explained that "we are trying to include Russia as much as possible," but the allies also want to avoid giving Moscow a veto over military actions that

membership would provide.

In such instances, she said, "we will act as the alliance" - without Russia's approval.

The foreign ministers did not act on the proposal for a brigade, an idea that originated two years ago in NATO's military headquarters. "We are just beginning to think about it," Secretary-General Javier Solana told reporters.

Albright also called for a meeting in the spring with prospective new NATO members "to give every ally a chance for direct discussion" before the July summit in Madrid, Spain.

New papers detail Wallenberg dealings with Nazis

STOCKHOLM (AP) - Newly opened US documents detail how Sweden's eminent Wallenberg family funneled millions of dollars of gold into Swiss banks, even though it may have come from Nazi plundering, according to a newspaper report yesterday.

The report in the respected *Dagens Nyheter* cites a US Justice Department document entitled "Historical Outline of the Gold Transaction," which it says was written in 1949.

The Wallenbergs - bankers and industrialists often referred to as "Sweden's Rockefellers" - are at the center of Sweden's re-examination of its actions during World War II, when it was officially neutral.

The family's most famous member, Raoul, is honored for saving Hungarian Jews from Nazi terror, but cousins Jacob and Marcus have been criticized for doing business with Nazi Germany.

Dagens Nyheter said the US documents show the Wallenbergs acted as fronts for the German electronics company Bosch in the United States by purchasing the company's American subsidiary.

The purchase was deceptive because the Wallenbergs gave the German parent company the absolute right to buy back the subsidiary, the newspaper said.

In 1943, the German government turned over a substantial amount of gold to the Boschs. Bosch used some of the gold to repurchase shares in the American subsidiary, according to the report.

The Wallenbergs then used the gold, worth about 90 million kronor (NIS 45 million) at today's rates, to buy securities from two Swiss banks, the newspaper said.

Germany was believed to be nearing the end of its pre-war gold reserves by that point in the war and Jacob Wallenberg inquired where the gold had come from, the US report said.

"If it was of an offensive origin, Wallenberg recommended that the gold be sold and that someone in exchange would buy Swiss or Swedish securities," the newspaper quoted the documents as saying. That transaction was carried out, the *Dagens Nyheter* said.

A spokesman for the Wallenberg family, Nils Ingvar

Lundin, told The Associated Press he could not comment on the new report, but noted that a

government commission is investigating whether Nazi loot remains in Sweden. The family

has said it would give access to archives of the bank it owned during the war years.

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Prosecutor: Probe of Clinton will continue

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) - Kenneth Starr, who has led the investigation of a failed land deal in which the president and Mrs. Clinton are implicated, cautioned yesterday against reading too much into his decision to step down.

President Clinton's supporters privately cheered the announcement Monday that Starr will leave by August to become dean of a law school, seeing it as a favorable sign for the president and first lady.

Other lawyers familiar with the probe cautioned that final decisions regarding the Clintons have not been made.

Asked yesterday whether his decision is a sign that the Clintons will not be indicted, Starr said a team of prosecutors remains on the job to probe their business dealings in Arkansas, where Clinton was governor before he became president in 1993.

"I think it is dangerous to speculate on what the activity of any one person might mean," Starr said. "The investigation is going to go on for some time."

"It is not one individual. It is a process that involves a number of very skilled professionals who are committed to doing the best possible job," Starr said.

Pepperdine University President David J. Davenport announced Monday that Starr will step down from the probe of the land deal, known as Whitewater, to take a full-time job as dean of the law school and school of public policy. Starr said he'll start between June 1 and August 1.

The Clintons' Whitewater lawyer, David Kendall, did not comment. White House press secretary Mike McCurry expressed surprise. "No clue what it means and no comment," he said yesterday.

ROAD

Continued from Page 1

construction on Har Homa the minute that a Hebron deal was implemented, but this has not been fulfilled.

Special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross said US officials have not been consulted by Israel on the building at Har Homa. Ross, approached after a dinner in his honor given Monday night by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said there are issues that Israel informs the US of in advance, but this is not one of them.

The coalition factions in the Knesset expressed dissatisfaction with the decisions of the ministerial committee on Jerusalem yesterday and are still demanding the prime minister immediately begin the Har Homa project and the E1 strip linking Jerusalem and Ma'aleh Adumim, as well as the three planned access roads to Jerusalem.

Both the coalition and opposi-

tion faction heads are scheduled to meet with Netanyahu today. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid advised Labor leader Shimon Peres and his party colleagues against attending the meeting, saying Netanyahu would use it later to put the blame for any subsequent rioting on the opposition.

The coalition was not quipped by yesterday's meeting. MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) submitted a motion with the necessary 40 signatures that would oblige the prime minister to address the plenum and explain his policy on Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, in yesterday's *New York Times*, A.M. Rosenthal wrote that Netanyahu spread out Israel's "red line" map before Clinton at the White House last week. It showed territory Netanyahu said Israel would insist on holding as essential to the defense of the country. According to the map, the territories would be divided about in half between Israeli and Palestinian control. Towns, cities and about 99 percent of the population would be under Palestinian rule, Rosenthal wrote.

POLICE

Continued from Page 1

have a relatively complete picture of what went on at the Prime Minister's Office regarding Bar-On's appointment, they wanted a full explanation from Netanyahu before drawing any conclusions.

Mazor has investigated numerous security-related cases, while Grossman has been involved in sensitive finance-related interrogations and those in the Deri affair. With the help of State

Attorney Edna Arbel, they prepared a list of some 80 questions to raise with Netanyahu.

Among the topics they planned to broach were: who was involved in the appointment; who suggested Bar-On and when; who supported Bar-On's appointment; and did any of them exert any pressure or make threats; why Dan Avi-Yitzhak was dropped as a candidate; and what are the details regarding a January 6 meeting at Netanyahu's home between Lieberman, Avi-Yitzhak and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

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Promising start, wrong issue

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright strode into NATO headquarters on her first visit yesterday like a breath of fresh air - bright, blunt and above all, new. Only time will tell whether her choice of top campaign issue for her inaugural tour of Europe - NATO enlargement - will prove to be the lemon it looks like.

First tours by new secretaries of state have left as much impact on history as yesterday's passing breeze. The benchmark of ineptitude was set by Ronald Reagan's man, Alexander Haig, who was dispatched on a 1981 tour of the Middle East to persuade all states in the region that the greatest threat to themselves and world peace was Soviet expansion. None of Washington's best friends hesitated to disagree. They informed Haig that the unresolved Palestinian issue would remain the crucial and dominant concern of the region. It hardly requires 20-20 hindsight to ascertain which view was correct. Haig and his much ballyhooed Strategic Consensus soon vanished without a trace - as indeed have the Soviets. But from the Lebanon War to the intifada, Oslo and Hebron, Yasser Arafat and his people have thoroughly dominated the politics of the Middle East, apart from Saddam Hussein's brief appearance in the limelight.

Albright would do well to bear this precedent in mind as she comes to grips with the great NATO debate. This looks suspiciously like another issue the United States has wrongly identified as the vitally important flavor of the 90s, when it isn't. That would be odd, since Bill Clinton was elected first time around on the domestic American issue of the economy. For Russia and eastern Europe the issue of the day most certainly is not dusting the cobwebs off some creaking old defense organization and stretching it in their direction. It's their economies, stupid!

It's not just eastern Europe, either. The European Union itself has some more pressing matters to attend to, such as its looming monetary union, which is arriving at an inauspicious time of fading Euro-idealism in the member states. It is a fair bet that if the citizens of the 15 EU states were polled on their priorities for the coming first decade of the 21st millennium, NATO would figure as a fair-sized yawn way down the list.

Yet NATO is dominating Albright's European tour and no one seems to have bothered asking why. The rest of her 11-day world trip seems planned to set the right tone and send the right messages - it centers on Asia, which indeed is the economic and political powerhouse continent that will most engage North Americans of both the United States and Canada over the next 10 years.

The fact that NATO dominates Albright's visit to Europe should alarm Europeans just as much as the warnings issued by businessmen like Bill Gates at the Davos forum a couple of weeks ago. Gates and other luminaries of the net-

worked world hinted that Europe was heading for the role of ancient museum of the future if it does not shake itself out of its bureaucratic torpor and get wired.

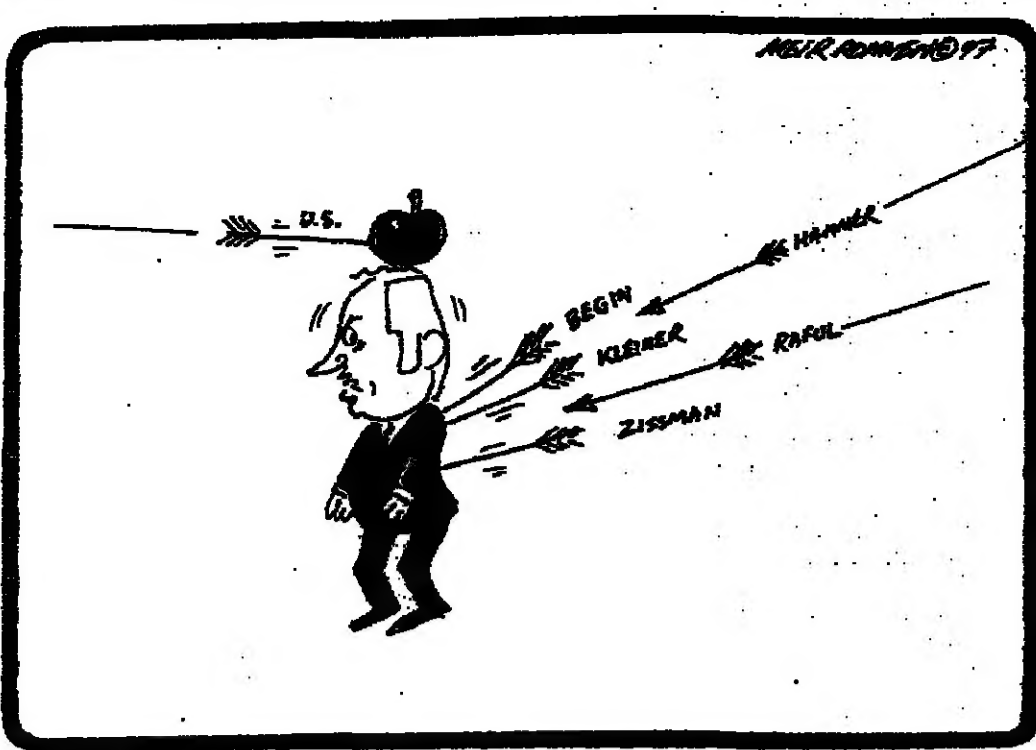
It is less clear why the United States is so NATO-obsessed in Europe. Compared to the instability surrounding North Korea, the uncertainties around Vietnam, Burma and southeast Asia, the animosities between an increasingly powerful China and its errant siblings in Taiwan and Hong Kong, a NATO umbrella for Europe and its peripheries seems oddly irrelevant. Certainly, NATO has done the job the United Nations so miserably failed to do in Bosnia - but it was forced to do it in partnership with Russian forces and it probably would have done it much better in partnership with all the relevant participants under another name.

Albright's NATO diplomacy seems particularly futile since the entire NATO process is badly frayed at the edges. She has had to expend much energy in mending fences with France while at the same time opposing such idiotic self-serving proposals as Paris taking over NATO's southern command or hosting a "big five" summit on Russia's relations with NATO. Then there is Turkey - adamantly opposed to moving any defense responsibilities from NATO to the Western European Union because it is denied membership of the EU while it occupies northern Cyprus. In the post-Cold War world such matters seem to have all the grandiose unimportance of a diplomatic board game.

Albright suggested yesterday that NATO and Russia start work on a joint military brigade. This is a step in the right direction only because she failed to take a bolder one such as suggesting that NATO and Russia get their heads together to discuss how to dismantle the whole edifice and replace it with something better suited to the times.

Such a move would save US officials from making speeches which fail to assure Moscow of NATO's non-threatening intentions. Albright said Russia and NATO should "work together at our major military commands and begin immediately to develop a joint NATO-Russia brigade." She at least is skirting closer to the heart of the matter than her predecessor. It is true that Russia and the east Europeans - indeed all Europeans - need to be brought into some sort of joint defense understanding. NATO's vision is of a loose alliance - a joint council with Moscow that, as Albright said, "would promote a regular dialogue on majority security issues, reach concerted decisions whenever possible, and seize opportunities for joint action."

NATO's vision is limited, as is that of most military organizations. It is a great pity Albright's refreshing bluntness did not take her further. The commendable objectives for cooperation she outlined would be achieved all the more easily by getting rid of NATO entirely and, like herself, starting afresh with some new perspectives.



Part of a larger issue

Martin Indyk is the US's accredited ambassador to the Israeli government, which is located in Jerusalem. But Indyk's own government doesn't allow him either to live in Jerusalem or move his embassy there.

Edward Abingdon handles the US's contacts with the Palestinian Authority, which is located in Gaza. He, in contrast, both lives and serves as US consul general in Jerusalem.

This twisted logic typifies American policy on Jerusalem. It is a legacy from the days when the US strove mightily to prevent Jerusalem becoming Israel's capital.

In those days there was no "Palestinian Authority," and consequently no rules forbidding the US consul in Jerusalem from being the US's contact with Palestinian organizations. On the contrary, Congress forbade administration officials to have any sort of contact with the PLO.

The Oslo agreement marked the demise of this ban, without leaving any restrictions on US dealings with the Palestinians in Jerusalem. A bizarre situation, indeed, one in which Israel has to contend with its powerful ally.

At the same time that Jerusalem is gradually becoming the place where the US and the PA meet, we get the new secretary of state explaining to Congress that moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (even West Jerusalem) is liable to lead to violence.

While this threadbare excuse remains part of the fabric of internal struggle between the administration and Congress, Israel can't really interfere; but when the threat of violent Palestinian reaction is used to deter Israel from its own policies, we have no choice but to tell the Americans that statements such as these are implicitly inflammatory.

MOSHE ZAK

Since American warnings of violence - like the published assessments of Israeli "experts" - tend to be self-fulfilling prophecies, the US should think twice before making them. Such warnings imply a recognition of the Palestinians' right to veto Israeli actions in Jerusalem - and not merely in the area of construction.

Har Homa is a litmus test of sole Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem

They imply, in other words, US recognition of a de facto partition of rule in Jerusalem.

THERE is nothing sacred about the timing of building in Har Homa. But inserting the Palestinian riot threat factor into the building equation is tantamount to agreeing that Israeli sovereignty must be restricted in a united city.

Faced with such a situation, Israel cannot compromise vis-a-vis either the Palestinians or the US, not even following Binyamin Netanyahu's successful trip to the White House. Why? Because compromise spells danger.

Prior to the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit last year, Israel made the mistake of consulting with the PA in an attempt to obtain its consent.

This was not forthcoming, but the Palestinians emerged strengthened in their conviction that a riot or two would be very useful for attracting international attention.

In addition, the message went out that Israel couldn't move a finger in Jerusalem, not even regarding something as minor as

opening a small tunnel exit.

We made our second mistake a few days ago, when the prime minister asked Yasser Arafat to close a few PA offices in Jerusalem. Arafat, typically enough, said he would, then didn't keep his promise. Meanwhile, the premier was seen to have endorsed Arafat's stature in Jerusalem.

How totally unnecessary, when Israel has the power to shut down illegal offices operating in Jerusalem, and doesn't need any partners to exercise this right.

It cannot, however, behave the same way vis-a-vis America.

If President Clinton wants to talk to the prime minister about Har Homa, Netanyahu cannot simply answer him as he should answer Arafat - i.e. tell him that Har Homa is none of his business.

But in the spirit of openness and frankness that the intimacy of our relationship with the US demands, we need to remind the Americans that the consensus between us excludes Jerusalem.

The Americans told the Palestinians before Madrid that they would not support changing the city's municipal boundaries; and we promised voters before our elections that Jerusalem would not be divided.

The prime minister was right not to ask Clinton for permission to go ahead on Har Homa. But he should have done more; he should have notified him of Israel's intention to build there.

As things are, Arafat can draw the erroneous conclusion that a US-Israeli conspiracy of silence exists in which a standstill at Har Homa becomes a quid pro quo for sole Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem.

In fact, this very conclusion led Faisal Husseini yesterday to threaten violence against sole Israeli rule in the city.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Slow food

HAIM SHAPIRO

The idea of a Slow Food Association sounds like a joke, and in a sense it is.

The idea was born, says Carlo Petrini, world president of Slow Food, when MacDonald's opened an outlet in Rome's Piazza d'Esperia.

The thought of that majestic public area marred by the big yellow "M" galvanized thousands of local people into protest, and that was how the organization was born.

Last week, Petrini was in Israel, speaking at the opening gathering of the Israeli Slow Food Association, held at Jerusalem's Hadassah College of Technology. What began as a bit of fun, he noted, has burgeoned into an organization with branches in 34 countries.

Now this was something with which I could really identify.

When I lived in Rome many years ago, there were hardly any foreign restaurants, much less the sort of fast food eateries that were then taking over North America.

But on subsequent visits it seemed as if every street corner had sprouted some sort of fast food restaurant, belonging to either an international or local Italian chain.

Where you could once stroll along the street seduced by the aroma of garlic tempered with basil, the only thing to assuage the nostrils now was the stench of grease, cooking thousands of kilos of chips.

OF COURSE, people should be free to eat what they want. And if they want to clog up their arteries with a diet high in beef fat, that's their business.

They are even free to turn their children into juvenile cardiac cases by allowing them to subsist on junk food.

The next fad to hit the country?

On the other hand, as Petrini noted, MacDonald's seems to have made it a policy to establish one of its highly-visible franchises in the heart of the historic center of every major city throughout the world.

The demonstrators who gathered to protest the big M presence in Jerusalem were mostly concerned about the restaurant not being kosher. Perhaps they should have been grateful it did not overlook the Western Wall.

President Weizman evoked considerable criticism last year for linking a tragedy at a rock concert to Americanization, as typified by MacDonald's.

His remarks might have fallen on more fertile ground had he - perhaps in a different context - spoken of the danger to our culture that comes from accepting the lowest common denominator of international popular culture, as typified by the fast food chains.

We need to remind ourselves that fast food restaurants came about to answer a very specific need. Anyone who traveled the highways of America before they took over will recall the mediocre-to-awful eating places along the road.

When I traveled with my parents as a child, we would often walk into such places only to walk out again, or to have my mother hiss that we could order only bottled soft drinks.

Fast food places may be sterile - but that sterility includes a standard of cleanliness where none existed before. (In Israel, for example, they have pioneered in providing clean toilets in moderately-priced eating places.)

Where the fast food places offend, of course, is in replacing our own culture with an ersatz international one. And that ersatz culture does not consist of hamburgers and chips alone.

Pizza, for example, can be quite good in Naples, and even a few other places. Here, it comes with a ubiquitous tomato sauce containing equal quantities of sugar and garlic, and covered with a thick, rubbery layer of some nameless yellow cheese.

As some local restaurateurs have demonstrated, even such an exotic item as the Yemenite *jahnoun* can be degraded into junk food.

Only in the last decade or so have considerable numbers of Israelis discovered the pleasures of enjoying food. But alas, many confuse pretentious yuppie fads with enjoyment.

Are we in for a slow food fad to challenge the fast food epidemic? I'm all for it.

The writer is restaurant critic of The Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JEWISH-CATHOLIC RELATIONS

Sir - Haim Shapiro's feature story, unfortunately titled "Jews and Catholics: Not much more to say," (February 13), neglected to mention this historic international symposium on "the future of Jewish-Catholic relations in the world and in Israel/the Holy Land" was sponsored by the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI), in cooperation with the Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Foundation of New York, FAITH, and the Israel Jewish Council for Interreligious Relations.

Moreover, the headline of the article and its contents did not tell the full story of this symposium. It is not correct that there is nothing left to talk about between Catholics and Jews worldwide or in this country. Rather, the dialogue is moving on to new issues. The agenda of the future was laid out clearly and poignantly by the symposium's speakers. Jewish-Catholic dialogue is radically changing from issues of community relations to a uniquely reciprocal theological and educational dialogue. This new agenda could never have been broached without the achievements of the past 30 years of dialogue, as outlined in the first session of our symposium.

There is much to do in the coming years and decades, particularly in the area of education, wherein stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about each other will need to be corrected, and new information promulgated and taught in Catholic and Jewish institutions worldwide as well as in Israel. We are just at the beginning of this new era of Catholic-Jewish relations.

DR. RON KRONISH, Director, Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, Jerusalem.

ENJOYABLE ARTICLES

Sir - Exploration of the technological adventures available on my home computer regularly takes me to *The Jerusalem Post*.

Two recent opinion pieces in the *Post* caught my eye: "Off limits" (January 7) and "Waste not" (January 19), written by Helen Motro, a name I remembered from an earlier op-ed article on the election of Netanyahu. She writes with intelligence and wit, and although the focus is Israel, she articulates sentiments that have resonance even here in Canada!

BARBARA ROSTON, North York, Canada.

THE KNESSET

Sir - I agree heartily with every word that Seymour Brodsky wrote in his letter of February 7, "The Knesset's self-respect."

I would just like to add one comment regarding the level of debate - this should be conducted with decorum, and with respect for political opponents even though their views are different. This is the kind of example that should be set to the population at large.

BRIAN ZIETMAN, Jerusalem.

PREJUDICED GENERALIZATIONS

Sir - While I totally agree with Susan Hattis Rofe's remarks concerning the way many haredim - of all backgrounds - view the recent helicopter tragedy ("Fate's fault," February 11) I was shocked and disgusted to read her prejudiced generalizations about "those referred to as 'Oriental' Jews." It was "their" reaction that upset her most. How can a professor of political science in Israel today possibly pro-

SCANDAL

Sir - I have just returned from Israel, which I visit at least once a year and sometimes twice. I stay mostly in Jerusalem and I go to the Wall at least two or three times a week.

The *shnorers* at the Wall are terrible. Aggressively, they demand specific amounts of money from tourists and interrupt a person's prayers and solitude when at the Wall.

Why are they permitted to operate so openly and brazenly?

IRVING CENTOR, New York.

GIVE AND TAKE

Sir - Our Knesset members give new meaning to the concept of give and take. While they see fit to give themselves a 40 percent salary hike, they take away the discount for senior citizens' television licensing fees.

This outrageous tax imposes a hardship on many pensioners who rely on TV as their main source of news and entertainment. It is yet another example of legislative hutzpa. Shame on you, Knesset members!

RENA GORDON, Jerusalem.

PEACE NOW

moté the idea, which is actually a slur, that those of "Oriental" background feel a certain way about anything? Who is "Oriental" anyway these days? Her criticism of one's views is justified, especially in this case, but what does it matter if the expression of these views comes from someone who is "Oriental," "Irish," or "Italian"?

JANET HARSHMAN AGASSI, Herzliya.

Screaming and hollering

I don't want to go into the fascinating question of what and who is a Jew.

Suffice it to say that my Jewishness has been amply defined for me by other people in other countries. ("Stop waving your arms around like that and getting all emotional." Or "Funny how you people are all so clever.")

In this country, although I don't quite see God as an accountant totting me up come September, I seem to have the right tribal credentials.

However, unlike some of my neighbors, I am not absolutely riveted by religious questions. I am also suspicious of organized religion, in whose name so many millions have been oppressed and murdered.

So I was quite intrigued to find out that a group of educators are working on setting up a general education network which will foster secular, humanist values.

But I can't really see a lot of people out on the streets screaming and hollering for the right to send their children to secular humanist schools.

Perhaps that's because humanism has been a synonym for liberalism for so long that many Israelis interpret it as being a kind of soggy tolerance. It amounts to little more than leaving your neighbor alone to do his or her thing, whether it's indulging in religious rituals or throwing acid raves.

Anyway secular, humanist Israelis are not often to be found in the streets screaming and hollering.

Peace Now, Women in Black, Yesh Gvul, Gay Rights, and now Peace Generation are all distinguished by the public appearances of polite, well-bred people who, as the Israel Police will tell you, need little or no supervision at demonstrations.

In fact, we're all so quiet,

SUSAN BELLOS

restrained and well behaved that we couldn't summon up the energy either to keep Yitzhak Rabin alive or keep Ehud Olmert out of office as mayor of Jerusalem.

AS Judaism points out: If you care, you scream a bit. If you care about your neighbor, as we are enjoined to do, you don't leave him alone just to do his own thing, whether it is wife-beating, child abuse, or other things you consider wrong or dangerous.

Perhaps we should stop worrying about being divisive

Decent human beings take stands. They also scream and holler in the streets.

So the point of a secular school network seems to me to be its attitude to the neighbors. In other words, not so much what it proposes to teach, but where it proposes to locate.

The curriculum offered by such a network (*A Short History of Western Philosophy*, A.D. Gordon, or the works of Else Lasker-Schuler?) is infinitely less interesting than just whom it plans to teach.

The chances are that a group of secular humanist parents are more likely to be found in Jerusalem's German Colony or in Ramat Aviv, rather than in Beersheba's Shikun Dalet, or in Ofakim.

In fact, the people who support the idea of secular, humanist education are almost entirely to be found in affluent, middle-class areas. They already have a choice in their neighborhoods of schools

offering music and arts, science and technology. There's even a progressive school, and a school for the super-gifted.

Needless to say, the vast majority of pupils in these schools - which are often exhibited as evidence of pluralism within the Israeli school network - come from middle-class, and often secular, humanist homes.

There are of, course, the schools of the kibbutz movement which, to their credit, often also educate children from surrounding working-class areas. However, oddly enough, there have been noises from the kibbutz movement that setting up a secular network would be divisive, given the current need to bridge gaps and heal wounds within the Jewish population.

Perhaps we should take a leaf out of a few religious books and stop worrying about being divisive.

If we fret at the rise of religious fundamentalism, we ought to scream and holler somewhat. If we express shock that over 50 percent of Jerusalem's elementary pupils are now being educated in religious schools, we ought to offer more than just another educational choice for middle-class children.

The dull, boring, but essential answer to those thousands of children in religious fundamentalist schools is to strengthen the present general school network.

If top-notch nonreligious schools offering small classes, a long school day, serious equipment, and better-qualified, highly-motivated teachers were set up in either Jewish urban slums, development towns, or poor Arab areas, you might just see a few divisions being bridged.

The writer is an education journalist.

BUSINESS

in brief

Israel, Mexico to explore free trade

Israel and Mexico have agreed to negotiate a free-trade agreement, following a meeting earlier this week between Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and visiting Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria, a spokesman for Sharansky said yesterday.

Mexico - a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement - is a missing link in Israel's sprawling free-trade zones map, which includes the US, Canada and much of Europe. Trade between the two countries is currently dominated by Israeli exports, which account for more than 90% of the \$60 million total last year.

Jerusalem Post Staff

C&W head to chair UK-Israel business parley

Cable and Wireless chairman Lord David Young will chair an Israeli-British business conference to be held in London this June. The meeting is to be sponsored by the bilateral business forum established two years ago by prime ministers John Major and Yitzhak Rabin.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy have all said they intend to participate in the event.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Forum to address workplace sex disparities

A forum entitled "Equal Like You," which aims to raise awareness about the disparity in salary between men and women and the glass ceiling that blocks the professional advancement of women, will be held next month at the Knesset.

The forum will focus on two bills which seek to secure equal pay and promotion opportunities for women. Both bills await their third reading at the Knesset, forum founder Aviva Rosen said.

Jennifer Friedlin

Bezeq: Telemedicine can save millions

Telemedicine can save the economy NIS 1.3 billion a year and will greatly increase accessibility to high-quality medical services around the country, according to Bezeq deputy director-general for marketing Eitan Levy. He was speaking at the first Israel Conference on Telemedicine, held at the Dan Panorama in Tel Aviv.

Telemedicine uses high-speed, broad-band phone lines to transmit voice, video, computer and scan data so that doctors in major hospitals can offer their opinions on patients' conditions to clinics and hospitals in the periphery.

This system, said Levy, will reduce repeated testing of patients and save hospitalization days.

Judy Siegel

Palestinian bourse opens

TASE head: Nablus can emerge as viable alternative to second Israeli market

By GALT LIPKIS BECK,
JENNIFER FRIEDLIN
and news agencies

At 10:01 a.m. yesterday, the Palestinian stock market officially opened in Nablus.

Exchange officials broke into applause when the bourse's screen flashed the completion of the first transaction - 100 shares of the Arab Insurance Co. were sold for four Jordanian dinars (NIS 18.80) each.

The initial excitement surrounding the launching of the exchange, which, during an introductory phase will be opened for only one trading session a week, was met by mixed reactions from Palestinian politicians and businessmen, as well as from Israeli stock market analysts.

"This is an exciting moment; in fact, I can see my wife in the background shedding a drop or two of tears," said Palestine Securities Exchange general manager Safwan Bataineh, who promised to publish a market index, to be called the Jerusalem Index, soon after the completion of the new market's introductory phase.

"The stock exchange is a very good instrument for the economy at large," said Palestinian Authority Economy & Trade Minister Maher Masri.

Other observers, however, said that while they support the exchange's establishment, the current political and social climate may dissuade potential investors from buying stocks on it.

"I can't predict if the stock market will succeed or fail," said Mohammed Masrouji - who is chairman of Jerusalem Pharmaceuticals, National Insurance Co. and Palestine Investment and Development Co., three of the 23 companies that were listed yesterday on the exchange for trading.

"It all depends on the political situation in Palestine, which is not stable."

Officials said 20 other companies are in the process of being listed.

The officials estimated there were some 60 joint-stock companies in the West Bank and Gaza



Allam Khalaf, a manager at the Palestinian stock exchange, checks his watch as he gives the order via his computer for trading to open for the first time yesterday.

Strip, with a combined market capitalization of some \$700m. eligible for listing.

A \$2 million electronic bourse was set up to help attract long-term investment from expatriate Palestinians.

Israeli capital market analysts also offered a mixed bag of reactions to the establishment of the Palestinian bourse.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange managing director Sam Bronfeld said the new exchange could help jump start the Palestinian economy.

"It will contribute to the Palestinian economy in the form

of growth and investments," he said, adding that Nablus could end up serving as an alternative to the establishment of a second bourse in Tel Aviv.

The new market could solve problems similar to those that a second stock market here would be designed to alleviate, mainly by providing small and new companies with a capital-enlistment tool, Bronfeld said.

While the Palestinian bourse may serve as a channel for Israeli companies to raise capital, Yossi Nitzani of consultancy firm Economic Models recommends that the Palestinians search for

less riskier firms, at least in the first stage.

"It is important to gain the public's confidence in the market by listing companies with a good track record," said Nitzani, who previously served as head of the TASE. "I don't think it is a good idea for the Palestinian bourse to be dependent on high-risk, high-technology and start-up companies."

But other experts said the bourse's success depends on a formidable amount of yet-to-be-seen factors.

These include the number of companies to be traded, the vol-

ume of investments, legislation regarding transparency, availability of financial instruments, trading regulations, access to real-time information networks, as well as investors who will get the market rolling.

"The chicken has laid the egg, now we have to see what will happen," said Pacific Mediterranean managing director Mark Melias. "I doubt whether the Palestinian government can supply the capital the stock market needs on its own. The money will have to come from elsewhere; otherwise there won't be a stock market."

(Reuters)

COMPANY RESULTS

Orbotech net income up 52%

Orbotech Ltd.'s fourth quarter net income jumped 52 percent to \$5.7 million from \$3.7m. in the same period in 1995, the company announced yesterday. The figure excludes the income made from the sale of the company's holdings in Opal.

Revenues for the fourth quarter rose 11.1% to \$38m. from \$34.9m. For the year, net income, excluding the gain from the sale of Opal holdings, jumped 32% to \$20.1m. from \$15m. Revenue went up 14% to \$148.2m. from \$129.5m.

The Yavne-based maker of computerized inspection systems used in the making of printed circuit board and liquid crystal displays attributed the results to strong sales in Japan and the Pacific Rim.

Orbotech's Japanese subsidiary reported a 117% increase in revenues, while the Pacific Rim subsidiary announced a 30% rise during the fourth quarter.

"This has been an especially productive period for Orbotech," Orbotech's CEO Yochai Richter said in a statement. "Demand for our automated optical inspection systems remains strong."

Jennifer Friedlin

Aladdin shows \$2m. fourth-quarter profit

Aladdin Knowledge Systems Ltd. last week reported an increase in fourth quarter net income to \$2.06m. from \$1.77m. in the same period in 1995. Revenues for the quarter rose 20% to \$8.43m. from \$7.04m.

For the year, the company's net loss totalled \$3.15m., compared to net income of \$6.02m. in 1995. Revenue for the year rose 16% to \$28.70m. from \$24.83m. one year ago.

Aladdin, a Tel Aviv-based maker of information security solutions for software developers, attributed the drop in net income to expenses connected with reorganization.

Aladdin's products combine hardware and software to manage and monitor software licensing and to prevent the unauthorized use of computer programs.

Jennifer Friedlin

Koor sells 24% stake in Edible Products to CPC

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Koor Industries sold its 24.5-percent stake in food distributor Tami-Israel Edible Products to CPC Israel Holdings, a subsidiary of CPC International, for NIS 118.59 million, a Koor announcement said yesterday.

CPC has consequently increased its holding in Edible Products to about 85%, company general manager Richard Oppenheimer said. Besides Koor's 24.5% stake, CPC also acquired 9.5% of the company's shares from the inheritors of the late George Factor.

Following the sale, the inheritors will continue to hold about 15% of Tami's shares and retain a board seat.

Koor, whose expected capital gains from the transaction is estimated at NIS 45m., said the sale of Tami is part of an overall strategy to shed off activities which are not central to its operations (see more about Koor's strategy

in today's Money magazine.)

The company is also negotiating the sale of its shares in Hod Lavan and Pri Hagail.

Koor general manager Benny Gaon said the recent entrance of multinational food concerns into Israel have reduced the group's relative advantage in the field.

The transaction is subject to the approval of the Antitrust Authority at the Industry and Trade Ministry.

CPC is a leading international company in the food industry, with 63 companies operating worldwide, in addition to trading offices.

The company's sales volume for 1996 is estimated at \$6.2 billion.

CPC made its first investment in Tami in 1992, with the purchase of a 51% holding from Koor and the German-based Factor family.

The transaction was concluded according to a market value of \$75 million.

Tami produces and markets some 400 different brand names, among them Telma products, Blue-Band margarine, Vered Hagail chocolate and 778 preserves.

The company also distributes and manufactures CPC brands such as Mazola margarine and Knorr soups and side dishes.

The company has seven manufacturing plants and employs 1,500 workers. Sales volume for 1996 is forecasted at \$230m.

According to Oppenheimer, no changes are expected in Tami's basic policy and guidelines. "The commercial policy of the company was decided when CPI acquired control of the company in 1992," he said.

In related news, Ron Gutman, deputy general manager of CPC Israel, will be appointed general manager of the company in March instead of Oppenheimer, who was appointed CPC vice president of central and eastern Europe.

Egypt, EU in cooperation talks

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egyptian and European ministers met yesterday to discuss trade problems and Middle East peace, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said.

Moussa spoke to reporters after separate meetings with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo, who is also European Union council of ministers' chairman, and a ministerial team accompanying Spain's King Juan Carlos visiting Cairo.

He said talks focused on the EU role in the Middle East peace process and the negotiations between Europe and Egypt on their partnership agreement providing for free trade in services and manufactured goods.

"The European negotiations are continuing and proceeding, and we spoke of the agricultural field, which is the primary problem," Moussa said. "[Egypt's] Trade Minister Ahmed Gucly will make a tour of European countries to discuss the issue with their agricultural ministers."

Egypt's negotiator Ambassador Gamal Bayoumi said last week

that European negotiators had stopped talking about traditional trade flows and said they could offer new quotas for Egypt's agricultural exports to Europe - the main bone of contention in the talks.

The two sides last met in Brussels earlier this month. Egypt is pressing for easier access to EU markets for Egyptian foodstuffs, especially rice and potatoes.

The EU has argued for quotas that reflect the historical level of Egyptian exports. Egypt says these are based on a time when it traded mainly with the Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

Moussa said that Egypt will take part in a meeting of Mediterranean states in Malta in April for talks on cooperation between the countries on the sea's northern and southern shores.

He said Egyptian ministers and Spain's Foreign Minister Abel Matutes and two Spanish secretaries of state conferred yesterday, when King Juan Carlos met Egyptian President Hosni

Hapoalim: Gov't spin-off dividends not automatic

By GALT LIPKIS BECK

The state-owned banks' dividend distribution policy will depend on the Banking Law's specifications concerning capital adequacy and ratio of capital to non-financial assets, as well as the approval of the banks' boards of directors, Bank Hapoalim chairman Emmanuel Sharon said yesterday.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor recently requested the state-controlled banks to distribute a dividend out of the sale of their surplus non-financial holdings.

Meridor also called on the banks to distribute future dividends at a fixed rate of 45 percent of annual profits, for 1996, 1997 and 1998. Today the banks distribute retroactive dividends.

The government-controlled banks include Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi and Bank Discount.

It is estimated that Bank Hapoalim will pay the highest dividend to the government in respect of 1996 earnings.

Hapoalim's dividend distribution policy will be determined once the directors receive information on the consolidated financial statements for 1996, he said. The Treasury, as the major shareholder in the bank, is authorized to take part in the bank's general shareholders vote on dividend policy.

Bank Hapoalim is expected to report a net profit of more than NIS 900 million for 1996, according to press reports.

Annual earnings from the sale of non-financial assets are estimated at NIS 200m.

Sharon refused to comment on the figures, adding that the earnings of subsidiary companies such as Clal, Koor and Ampal are not yet known.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.575
German mark (€100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.550
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Yen (10 million year)	0.825	0.790	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.2.97)

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BANKNOTES

	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep.
Currency basket	3.8999	3.8980			
U.S. dollar	3.3242	3.3779	3.28	3.43	3.6378
German mark	1.9519	1.9528	1.91	2.02	3.3200
Pound sterling	5.3403	5.4285	5.24	5.31	1.9734
French franc	0.5780	0.5874	0.56	0.58	5.3821
Japanese yen (100)	2.6730	2.7182	2.62	2.78	0.5848
Dutch florin	1.2380	1.2601	1.20	1.26	2.7042
Swiss franc	2.2390	2.2737	2.20	2.31	1.7579
Swedish krona	0.4455	0.4587	0.43	0.45	2.2854
Norwegian krona	0.4902	0.4982	0.48	0.51	0.4506
Danish krone	0.5116	0.5190	0.50	0.53	0.4983
Finland mark	0.5575	0.5682	0.54	0.58	0.5176
Canadian dollar	2.4510	2.5106	2.40	2.53	0.8650
Australian dollar	2.5445	2.5968	2.50	2.63	2.4758
S. African rand	0.7808	0.7830	0.68	0.77	2.5708
Belgian franc (10)	0.9482	0.9505	0.92	0.96	0.7894
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7716	2.8106	2.72	2.85	0.8650
Italian lire (1000)	1.9783	2.0082	1.94	2.04	3.8825
Jordanian dinar	4.8300	4.8400	4.83	4.84	1.9538
Egyptian pound	0.9400	1.0300	0.94	1.03	4.7830
ECU	3.7921	3.8333	3.79	3.84	1.0645
Irish punt	5.2117	5.2988	5.12	5.37	3.8251
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3083	2.3425	2.26	2.38	2.3306

*These rates vary according to bank.

**Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Atherton leads England to series win

CHRISTCHURCH (Reuters) - England won the third cricket Test against New Zealand yesterday, taking the three-match series 2-0 in what was a personal triumph for captain Mike Atherton.

Set 305 to win by New Zealand, England won by four wickets in the final session. It was only the second time in their long cricket history that they passed 300 in their second innings to win. The last time was against Australia in 1928/29.

It was a thrilling match with the outcome still in the balance in the afternoon of the last day.

And for England it was a remarkable comeback, having trailed New Zealand by 118 runs on the first innings.

Atherton anchored the innings with 118, a performance of monumental concentration.

He had also carried his bat with 94 not out in the first innings meaning that, because he is an opening batsman, he spent all but a couple of hours of the match on the field.

For Atherton and his team the Test series in New Zealand marked a reversal of fortune.

They were ridiculed for failing to win the Test series against Zimbabwe in the first leg of their tour and even lost the one-day series there.

Atherton's own form had been mediocre and questions were asked about his place in the team. But his triumph in New Zealand means his position for the coming home Ashes series against Australia should be secure.

New Zealand started the day with high hopes. England were on 118 for two and required a further 187 to win on a wicket which was turning considerably.

Although the home side captured nightwatchman Andrew Caddick in the morning, only



Robert Croft (left) and Phil Tufnell celebrate after England secured a thrilling win in the Third Test in Christchurch yesterday. (Reuters)

when Atherton was out after lunch with the score at 226 for four did New Zealand have a scent of victory.

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TOTAL 305
Fall of wickets: 118, 1st 118, 2nd 118, 3rd 118, 4th 118, 5th 118, 6th 118, 7th 118, 8th 118, 9th 118, 10th 118, 11th 118, 12th 118, 13th 118, 14th 118, 15th 118, 16th 118, 17th 118, 18th 118, 19th 118, 20th 118, 21st 118, 22nd 118, 23rd 118, 24th 118, 25th 118, 26th 118, 27th 118, 28th 118, 29th 118, 30th 118, 31st 118, 32nd 118, 33rd 118, 34th 118, 35th 118, 36th 118, 37th 118, 38th 118, 39th 118, 40th 118, 41st 118, 42nd 118, 43rd 118, 44th 118, 45th 118, 46th 118, 47th 118, 48th 118, 49th 118, 50th 118, 51st 118, 52nd 118, 53rd 118, 54th 118, 55th 118, 56th 118, 57th 118, 58th 118, 59th 118, 60th 118, 61st 118, 62nd 118, 63rd 118, 64th 118, 65th 118, 66th 118, 67th 118, 68th 118, 69th 118, 70th 118, 71st 118, 72nd 118, 73rd 118, 74th 118, 75th 118, 76th 118, 77th 118, 78th 118, 79th 118, 80th 118, 81st 118, 82nd 118, 83rd 118, 84th 118, 85th 118, 86th 118, 87th 118, 88th 118, 89th 118, 90th 118, 91st 118, 92nd 118, 93rd 118, 94th 118, 95th 118, 96th 118, 97th 118, 98th 118, 99th 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A. CADDICK c. Vettori b. Vettori 118
D. CORK not out 36
J. CRAWLEY not out 36

Klingberg parole nixed

By LIAT COLLINS and Nim

Marcus Klingberg's petition for an early release from prison due to his poor health was thrown out yesterday by the Prisons Service parole board.

After consulting with security sources, the parole board ruled that Klingberg, 78, still poses a danger to the public. Klingberg was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment in 1983 for revealing secrets about biological warfare to the Soviets.

Judge Oded Mudrik, who heads the parole board, said "security sources emphasized that a full interpretation of their terms means that Klingberg must retain his status as a prisoner."

The board also cited financial factors in its decision. Were Klingberg released, he would have to be placed under heavy guard.

The NIS 2 million expenditure [needed to release Klingberg] is a

very heavy burden," the board wrote.

"This is a death sentence for me," Klingberg said, after hearing the verdict.

"We will appeal this decision, and in the end I assume we will succeed in freeing him, despite this irrational decision," Klingberg's lawyer Avigdor Feldman said.

Meanwhile, a group of 10 MKs from different factions, led by MK Yona Yahav (Labor), are seeking an urgent meeting with President Ezer Weizman to explain why they believe the Klingberg should be released from prison. Yahav cited Klingberg's age and poor health, as well as the fact he has served most of his sentence, as reasons to release him early.

Those lobbying for his parole include Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) and former deputy GSS head Gideon Ezra (Likud).



Police help Marcus Klingberg to his feet after his appeal that the remainder of his prison sentence be waived was rejected yesterday by the Prisons Service parole board. (Gideon Markovitz)

Bio institute to come under close inspection

By LIAT COLLINS

The Environment Ministry will examine the area around the Biological Institute near Ness Ziona to check that the research center does not pose health or environmental threats to local residents. The Knesset also will establish a special sub-committee with members of the Science and Technology and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees to monitor the center's operations.

The science committee discussed the institute yesterday, despite the government's request that it not raise the issue. MK Rafi Elul (Labor), who chaired the meeting, noted that in the past Israel Industries-TAAS and other factories had been forced to relocate from residential areas because of the threat they posed to the

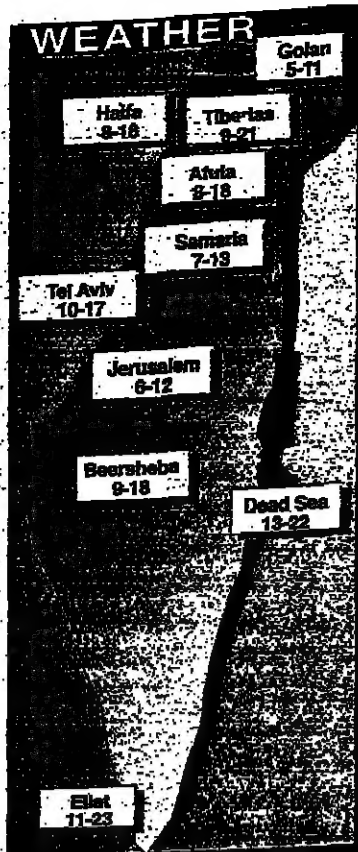
nearby population.

"If there is even the slightest danger to the local residents, the institute must be moved. Monetary considerations must not be allowed to be the deciding factor in the relocation issue," Elul said.

The center's director Dr. Avigdor Shefferman, who lives in Ness Ziona, stated: "There are no environmental dangers at all coming from the institute. From the safety point-of-view, the institute is supervised by all the relevant ministries: Labor and Social Affairs; the Environment Ministry; and the Health Ministry. We are checked in accordance with professional standards. There is also an external public committee which monitors the institute's activities. The institute's infrastructure is constructed to meet the highest international standards."

However, Ness Ziona Mayor Yoel Shabo said residents also feared the institute could be an enemy target in wartime.

Environment Ministry Deputy Director Shmuel Brenner confirmed Shefferman's view that the highest criteria are being adhered to, but Hadasah-University Hospital's Eliahu Richter, who heads its environmental and occupational unit, said the standards are "legal ones, often a compromise and not necessarily safe."



Forecast: Partly cloudy, additional drop in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Notes
Amsterdam	10	11	rain
Berlin	8	11	rain
Bombay	25	30	rain
Brussels	10	11	rain
Cairo	20	25	rain
Chicago	25	30	rain
Copenhagen	10	11	rain
Frankfurt	10	11	rain
Geneva	10	11	rain
Helsinki	10	11	rain
Hong Kong	25	30	rain
London	10	11	rain
Los Angeles	10	11	rain
Madrid	10	11	rain
Moscow	10	11	rain
New York	10	11	rain
Paris	10	11	rain
Stockholm	10	11	rain
Tel Aviv	10	11	rain
Toronto	10	11	rain
Vienna	10	11	rain
Zurich	10	11	rain

Britain supports holding international 'Nazi gold' conference

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Britain gave guarded support yesterday to an international "Nazi gold" conference to discuss compensation for Holocaust survivors.

"We are open to the idea of a conference, but we would want to ensure that it has a clear purpose and was properly prepared," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

However, the idea was greeted with something less than enthusiasm in the American survivors community. "It's important to learn the truth, but everyone is running around asking for reports and meetings," said one of the survivors' advocates in the US. "If they have money for plane tickets and conferences, why shouldn't they just give it to the survivors?"

The conference was broached by Greville Janner and David Hunt, British MPs who met on Monday in Zurich with Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti.

Janner's proposal calls for all countries that bought or handled Nazi gold to pool their knowledge on what was looted by Nazi Germany from occupied countries and Holocaust victims and where that treasure ultimately went, Reuters reported.

Janner, one of the vice presidents of the World Jewish Congress, also is seeking to have the so-called \$68 million in "residual gold" — now held by the Tripartite Gold Commission — distributed to Holocaust victims.

The US, Britain and France several weeks ago agreed to freeze the "residual gold" they retain from the Nazi raids of the central banks of Europe. However, Stuart Eizenstat, Undersecretary of Commerce and the Clinton Administration's point man on property restitution, has said, "We don't have any agreement yet on what to do next." For the last half-century, the three states, operating as the Gold Commission, have distributed more than 300 metric tons of gold in restitution to the European national banks. Jewish groups have contended that some of this gold may belong to Nazi victims.

In London, the Foreign Office said that, in principle, Britain supported the idea of using the gold to benefit individual victims of Nazism.

The Swiss were backing the international conference, Janner said. "It could not work without the full cooperation of the Swiss and we were delighted that Flavio Cotti said he thought it was an excellent idea and that he thought the Swiss would participate," he told Reuters.

"There are two objects. The first is to find the truth for its own sake," Janner said. "The second is to consider whether on the basis of the truth funds can be made available, first for the survivors and their families and second to ensure that there is never a future Holocaust."

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